



DOCKET NO.: 4549

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Herwig ASSLER et al. | ART UNIT: 3677  
SERIAL NO.: 10/648,185 | EX.: J. W. LAVINDER  
FILED: August 25, 2003 | Conf. No.: 4413  
FOR: A Splicing for Interconnected  
Thin-walled Metal Structures

MS AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

June 14, 2005

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 20, 2004, INCLUDING AN  
ATTACHED COVER SHEET WITH CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Dear Sir:

The period for response has been extended with the enclosed  
**THREE MONTH** Term Extension Request and fee payment (Credit Card  
Payment Form PTO-2038).

Please amend the above identified application as follows.

**[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]**

In the Specification:

Please **replace** the paragraph at **page 12, lines 10 to 24**, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

In the embodiment of Fig. 5 the rivet shaft has a reduced diameter necked-down portion ~~[[11-]]~~ 11 which performs the same function as the reduced diameter ~~section~~ portion 11 in Fig. 4. The length of the necked-down shaft portion in the direction of the central longitudinal rivet axis 9 is selected in accordance with the thickness of the sheet metal in the recess 20 on which the rivet head 17 is bearing. It is preferred, that the axial length of the necked-down portion is slightly larger than the thickness of the just mentioned sheet metal portion on which the rivet head 17 is bearing. This feature makes sure that the horizontal motion of the sheet metal portions 2 and 3 relative to each other is impeded primarily by friction rather than by the axially extending clamping force. The clamping force and the friction force can be optimized by a defined torque moment applied to the rivet closure ring or collar 19.

**[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]**